Sexual Assault Response aboard MCAS Iwakuni

- Team Iwakuni mindset:
  - Major Razvillas, Installation SARC
  - Lieutenant Repass, MAG-12 SARC
- Coordination with:
  - MWSS-171
  - CSSD-36
  - BMC

DoD Definition

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

Sexual Assault is a Crime

DoD Definition

- Sexual assault includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling), or attempts to commit these acts
- Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim
- Is not the same as sexual harassment

DoD Definition

- “Consent” shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance
- Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious

Marine Corps Order 1752.5

- Zero tolerance for sexual assault
- Sexual assault is a criminal act
- Victims have access to appropriate assistance
- Perpetrators of sexual assault will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law

Sexual Assault Includes:

- Rape
- Sodomy
- Indecent Assault
- Any attempt of the above acts

All Forms of Sexual Assault are Crimes

Common Themes in the Military

- Alcohol use/abuse
- Acquaintance or co-worker
- Consent is a muddy issue
  - “I didn’t want to..but didn’t say anything”
  - “She didn’t say ‘no’”
  - “She said ‘no’ but I thought she was kidding…”
- Both victim and alleged perpetrator are commonly junior in rank and in their 20’s

Common Themes

- Victims are young, impressionable, eager to belong, very sensitive to peer pressure, isolated from friends and family
- Eager to prove themselves
- Offenders may suffer from the shining star syndrome, “you mean this applies to me?”
- Both hear lots of do’s and don’ts while striving for independence
- Both look to their immediate supervisors and leaders to set the tone

Who Are The Offenders?

Offender Characteristics

- 50% are between 21-29 years of age
- 46% are under the influence of alcohol
- 85% of cases involved no weapon other than hands, fists or feet

Offenders

- Can and do look like "any one“
- Could be of any rank, any race, any age, a top performer, outstanding athlete, or the "good" Samaritan who offers help
- Is the “good looking” Marine you meet
- Former boyfriend/girlfriend who still has access to your living quarters

Reminders for Evaluating Risk

- Charm and excellent fit reps do not mean the accused is telling the truth
- Engaging in high risk behaviors does not mean the victim is lying or was “deserving” of the assault

Putting the Challenges into Context

Unique issues for male victims:

- Often suffer profoundly from the idea that to be sexually assaulted is to lose one's manhood
- Often confuse sexual assault victimization with homosexual identity
- May request a female officer, insist that they were "assaulted" (denying the sexual component), or refuse to speak to a victim advocate
- May aggressively assert their masculinity or heterosexuality following the assault

Is Sexual Assault Preventable?

Risk Reduction Tips

- Know where you are at all times
- Act like you know where you are going
- Communicate your needs and wishes clearly
- Be assertive
- Avoid isolated situations and secluded places

Risk Reduction Tips

- Use the buddy system
- Trust your gut instincts or intuition
- Be aware that the use of drugs or alcohol increases vulnerability (but does not cause sexual assault)

The message for Female Marines:

- Be clear with the men in your life about what, if any, sexual behavior you are consenting to
- Speak up if anything makes you feel uncomfortable
- Practice situational awareness and if you feel uncomfortable or uneasy, get out

The message for Male Marines:

- Never assume to know what a woman wants. Check all sexual activity out verbally. If you feel you are getting a double message, say so. If she says she is not sure, assume the answer is “no” and let it go.
- If a woman says “maybe,” but then decides “no,” take no for an answer.
- Never think a woman owes you sex, under any circumstances.
- Accept a woman’s decision when she says “no.”

As a Leader

- Create a climate that is respectful to all
- Do not allow the behavior of a few to tarnish the prestige of the Marine Corps
- Interrupt inappropriate behavior
- Cut off sexually demeaning story-telling, joking or bantering.

Leader (Continued)

- Hold all accountable for sexually demeaning and aggressive behavior
- Report all incidents of sexual assault to the Provost Marshall
- Become familiar with the resources in your community

Reporting a Suspected Sexual Assault

Mandatory Reporting

- All Marines and Sailors are mandatory reporters of actual, suspected, or alleged sexual assaults
- Exception: Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVAs), Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, Medical Officers, and Chaplains

Reporting Options

- PMO, CDO
- UVA/SARC
- Medical
- NCIS
- Chaplain
- A friend or roommate

"Restricted Reporting" means that a victim can make a report to a victim advocate and receive counseling services without triggering an investigation

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted

- Get to a safe place
- Call someone who can help you
  Preserve evidence
- Get medical attention

Victim Assistance

Contact Information

- Help is available 24 hours, 7 days a week and 365 days a year for victims of sexual assault
- Contact a Victim Advocate, Chaplain, or the MTF for assistance during duty hours
- After duty hours contact the local Military Police (for unrestricted reporting) or MTF (for restricted reporting), either will refer you to a Victim Advocate for assistance and support

Uniformed Victim Advocates

- A UVA represents the command as an advocate 24/7 but is primarily utilized as a collateral duty to support victims forward deployed in addressing sexual assault
- All Deploying and Reserve units will be required to provide candidates for training
- The Uniformed Victim Advocate will provide initial support and provide a warm handoff to a supporting installation Victim Advocate for ongoing case management

Sexual Assault Hotlines

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

877-739-3895 (toll free)
(24 hour access to information, resources, and research regarding sexual assault)

MCCS OneSource

CONUS: 800-433-6868

OCONUS: 800-237-42374

Violence Against Women Online Resources

http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/acquaintsa/acquaintsa.html

SARC Contact Information

- Major Razvillas
  - Work 253-5314
  - Cell 080-1920-5177
  - Home 253-2704
- Lieutenant Repass
  - Work 253-3968
  - Home 253-2130

The Message For ALL

Do not blame the victim!

Hold the offender accountable for their inappropriate behavior!

Encourage reporting to reduce the risk to all since sex offenders continue to assault until they are caught.

Understanding Sexual Assault

Questions?